

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 35, 36, 40, 47-49, 60, 64-65, and 67-124 remain pending before the Examiner. By the present Communication, claims 35, 48, 67, 114, and 119 have been amended to further highlight patentable distinctions over the previously applied references, Kearby and Lindermeir, as well as other known prior art.

The amended claims all now recite a valve element having a single opening which is positionable in the sprinkler flow path by operation of the valve element. Kearby has no opening, single or otherwise, movable into the flow path by operation of the valve element. Lindermeir does not have a single opening; sleeve 18 includes three opening selectably movable into the flow path.

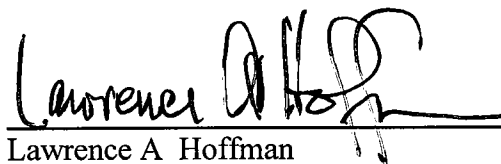
Applicants' arguments concerning other distinguishing features of the claims (e.g., the conical valve element recited in claims 35, 114, and 119, and their respective dependent claims, the single angular transition recited in claim 48 and its dependent claims, the alignment of the downstream end of the transition portion, an upstream end of the stream outlet flow path, and the single opening in the valve element as recited in claim 67 and its dependent claims, etc.) as presented in their communication filed November 22, 2006 remain valid, but are not repeated in the interest of brevity. They are, however, incorporated herein by reference, as if fully set forth, and the Examiner is respectfully referred to these arguments in connection with his further consideration of this application.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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LAH:lac



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